

Webinar on Performing Arts of Tamil Nadu

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University SMVDU and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts IGNCA organized a webinar on “Performing Arts of Tamil Nadu” under the flagship of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav program On Sun 6 Mar 2022 as a part of the EBSB events series.

Ms. Mekala Mani gave an overview of the performing arts of Tamil Nadu. She said the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu has its essence in cities and towns as well as the remote corners of villages. As diverse, colorful, and ornate as the whole of India, the art forms of Tamil Nadu, that owe their roots to ancient times, are practiced and performed even today with enthusiasm and devotion. She presented some of the forms which are practiced even today and some which are not very prominent in the contemporary stage. Some of the excellent representations of Tamilian history and culture are Bharatnatyam, Puliattam, Theru Koothu, Oyilattam, Bommalattam or puppetry, Silambattam, Bhagavata Mela, Kai Silambu Attam, Devarattam, Mayilattam, Karakattam, Kavadi Attam, Kolattam, Kummi, Snake dance and Poikkal Kudirai Aattam (Dummy Horse Dance). Ms. Logamani S gave an illustrated talk on the Dance Forms of Tamil Nadu. She added that many types of solo, as well as group dances, are performed here. The most famous dance form of Tamilnadu is Bharatnatyam. This folk dance is mainly performed by women. This is considered to be India's oldest dance form and also the mother of all other classical dances. The word Bharatnatyam comprises bhava, raga, tala, and Natya. This culturally rooted dance form originated from the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu and it was first performed in the Hindu temples to worship Lord Shiva. This form focused on hand gestures, footwork, and facial expressions. Apart from Bharatnatyam lots of dance forms are in Tamilnadu like Bamber dance, Karagattam, Kavadi Satyam, Devar Attam, Kolattam, Kazhai koothu, Mayil Aattam, Psmmpu dance or Snake dance, Poikkal kuthirai Aattam or Artificial Horse Dance, Pulliattam and koothu. Karagattam it's a traditional dance and its performed to worship Goddess Amman. Kavadi dance form is mostly performed by men and it is performed in worship of Lord Murugan. Devarattam was performed to the Tamil kings and their army after their victorious return from the battle. The dancers hold a handkerchief in their hand and swing it and also copy the steps done by the leading person. This is performed during festivals and social occasions. Kol Aattam is a combination of songs, music, and rhythmic movements. It is believed that there was a demon named Basavaswa who was uncontrolled because of his evil powers. Once a group of girls decided to play kollattam with this demon. Kazhai koothu is similar to a modern-day circus. Mayil Aattam is usually performed by women. A blue-colored dress is worn by them along with peacock feathers. Paampu dance is performed by young girls and it resembles a snake. Poikalkuthirai is a dance form in which dancers wear a dummy horse that is hollow in between. It is performed along with folk music to worship Goddess Amman. Pulliattam is another old folk dance of Tamilnadu. In this dance, the bodies of the dancers are painted with yellow and black paint to create a replica of a tiger. Koothu is a street party in which music and dance are performed by people during festivals and weddings. It is appreciated that people have kept these dance forms alive till now.

Ms Varunani Ra Na Presentation was on the art of puppetry and its socio-religious and educational significance. Puppetry is amazing art that inculcates culture and creativity in the soul. Puppets from Tamil Nadu, known as Bommalattam combine the techniques of both rod and string puppets. The Bommalattam puppets are the largest, heaviest, and most articulate of all traditional Indian marionettes. A puppet may be as big as 4.5 feet in height weighing about ten kilograms. Stories adapted from puranic literature, local myths, and legends usually form the content of traditional puppet theatre in India which, in turn, imbibes elements of all creative expressions like painting, sculpture, music, dance, drama, etc. Stories adapted from puranic literature, local myths, and legends usually form the content of traditional puppet theatre in India which, in turn, imbibes elements of all creative expressions like painting, sculpture, music, dance, drama, etc. In modern times, educationists all over the world have realized the potential of puppetry as a medium for communication. We should pay more respect and more attention to this art form as it's vanishing fast due to modernization.

The event was moderated by Dr. Virendra Bangroo, Director, Regional Centre, IGNCA New Delhi. The convener of the event was Sumanta Sarathi Sharma, Faculty Coordinator, EBSB, SMVD University who also presented the vote of thanks to the speaker, participants, and guests.

The image displays three sequential screenshots from a Zoom meeting, illustrating the presentation content and the participant grid.

Top Screenshot: The main window shows a presentation slide titled "The Beautiful Art Forms Of Tamil Nadu Reflections of Tamil Culture". The slide content includes the title and a grid of images. The Zoom interface shows "EBSB SMVDU is presenting". The participant grid on the right includes: Virendra Bangroo, mek ala, EBSB SMVDU, NARESH KUMAR R, LogaMani Soundra..., V Shankar, Jenepher Sanjeeth..., 3 others, and You.

Middle Screenshot: The main window shows a slide titled "Bharatanatyam" featuring a photograph of dancers in traditional attire. The Zoom interface shows "EBSB SMVDU is presenting". The participant grid on the right includes: Virendra Bangroo, mek ala, EBSB SMVDU, NARESH KUMAR R, LogaMani Soundra..., V Shankar, Jenepher Sanjeeth..., 4 others, and You.

Bottom Screenshot: The main window shows a video of a Bharatanatyam performance. The Zoom interface shows "LogaMani SoundraPandi is presenting". The participant grid on the right includes: EBSB SMVDU, Virendra Bangroo, mek ala, Jenepher Sanjeeth..., NARESH KUMAR R, tejpal pathak, Varunani Learning ..., 2 others, and You.